1	2	3	4	5	6	7
SMC Projects in Community Lands	847	19029.90	12448.79	6922.91	9	838
SMC Projects in Forest Lands	3574	59178.25	46192.32	11227.98	2891	683
Watershed Development Projects in Community Lands	1204	12284.53	9632.65	642.13	1199	5
TOTAL:	**19653**	**841775.70**	**544935.23**	**216397.32**	**11151**	**8502**

Effect of hardening of rupee on exports

789. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the hardening of rupee on export is impacting the exports;

(b) if so, whether any measures are in the offing to moderate the situation and promote exports with greater vigour;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) During April-September 2007, the total values of exports have registered a growth rate of 18.5 per cent in dollar terms compared to the corresponding period of the previous year. Export performance depends on many factors like world economic growth, growth in world trade, sector specific factors, etc., besides appreciation of Indian Rupee. As there was widespread concern on possible lagged adverse impact of rupee appreciation on export growth, Government has announced relief packages to exporters comprising of enhanced Duty Entitlement Passbook (DEPB) rates, reduction in Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC) premium, release of Rs. 600 crore for clearing all arrears of terminal excise duties and Central Sales tax reimbursement, enhancement of duty drawback rates, reduction in interest rates on pre and post shipment credit, etc.

Development of Andhra Bank as a Micro-Financing Bank

790. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received representations to recognize and give importance to the birth place of Late Pattabhi Sitaramayya, the former congress president and founder of Andhra Bank;

(b) whether it is a fact that demands are pending with Andhra Bank;

(c) the steps proposed by Government and Andhra Bank to give importance to rural development and micro-finance in that area of Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) the details of demands to develop Andhra Bank as a leading Micro-Financing Bank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) Andhra Bank has taken a decision to develop Gundugolanu village, the birth place of Dr. Pattabhi Sitharamayya - founder of the Bank, with credit and

non-credit inputs. The Bank is taking steps to develop the village at Pattabhi Model Village for its all-round development. The plan provides for covering all 3708 households/families in the village with bank accounts under financial inclusion, extending financial assistance to the eligible farmers, financing all eligible Self Help Groups (SHGs) for regular economic activities, additional loans for INDIRAMMA housing and debt-swapping, etc. Accordingly, the bank has extended credit to agriculture to the tune of Rs. 9.66 crore, Rs. 3 crore to SHGs, Rs. 1.62 crore to Small & Medium Enterprises like rice mills, Rs. 1.32 crore to the beneficiaries including small traders, professional and self employed persons, Road Transport Operators, Rs. 38.50 lacks of educational loans have been sanctioned to 31 students, extended finance to 75 Rythu Mithra Groups covering 375 tenant farmers, covered 320 farmers with Kisan Credit Card scheme, etc.

The plan envisages free-of-cost training to SHG members, farmers and unemployed youth on the latest technologies in bank's Rural Institutes situated at Rajumundry and Eluri and also at the State Level training institute, Hyderabad. Under the Development Plan, the Bank has also provided an amount of Rs. 6.00 lacs for development of the village school, school bags to the children, spectacles to the old age people, etc.

RBI and banks on irregular fixed deposits (FDs)

791. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has slammed banks on irregular Fixed Deposits (FDs) plans;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether banks with efficient and better management able to offer more rate of interest have freedom to do so; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) (a) and (b) It has been brought to the notice of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) that some banks have been offering special term deposit products to customers, in addition to regular term deposits, with special feature such as lock-in periods, differential rates of interest, etc., RBI has advised the banks *vide* its circular dated October 25, 2007 that the special schemes, with lock-in periods and other features floated by some banks, are not in conformity with the RBI instructions and are required to discontinue the schemes with immediate effect and report compliance. A copy of circular is available at RBI website (www.rbi.org.in).

(c) and (d) Commercial Banks are now free to fix their own interest rates on domestic term deposits of various maturities with the prior approval of their respective Board of Directors/ Asset Liability Management Committee (ALCO). As such, the rates of interest on deposits are determined by the banks themselves.

India on the world's globalization map

792. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Report has put India as second least globalized country in the world with Singapore at the top and Iran at the bottom;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor; and